



Advanced Structural Firefighting Ensemble (ASFE)

Program Introduction:

In 2001, Department of Health and Human Services - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and Natick Soldier Center (NSC) developed a concept paper for a multi-threat protective system for Fire Services, based on lessons learned from the Future Force Warrior program. This NIOSH funded effort is currently focused on developing a program plan to take Advanced Structural Firefighting Ensemble (ASFE) from concept to development. The National Protection Center maintains the program management responsibility for this program. The Materials and Systems Integration Team, Individual Protection Directorate, is providing technical support and systems integrations expertise to the National Protection Center.

Recent studies demonstrate that emergency responders, especially firefighters, are in need of an improved, integrated protective ensemble with multiple threat protection capabilities. By addressing and mitigating the conventional and non-conventional threats, those first to the scene will be better prepared when responding to an incident involving unknown weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The future configuration of such a system is still unclear, however a wealth of rapidly transferable concepts, knowledge, and research and development investments has the ability to expedite the development of such a system.

Objective:

To provide support in the development of a program plan for multi-purpose, systems integrated ensemble for fire fighters to protect against conventional hazards (thermal, structural collapse, and emergency medical situations), as well as unconventional hazards (WMD).

Partners:

Project lead for this effort is Department of Health and Human Services - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health - National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NIOSH - NPPTL) with program support coming from the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center (NSC), through the National Protection Center (NPC) and the Individual Protection Directorate (IPD).

Other members include:

- North Carolina State University
- Center for Technology Commercialization
- Battelle Memorial Institute
- Unconventional Concepts, Inc.
- National Technology Transfer Center – Emergency Response Technology Program (NTTC-ERTP)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology -Office of Law Enforcement Standards (NIST-OLEs)
- U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Points of Contact:

Individual Protection Directorate
COMM (508) 233-5424, DSN 256-5424

National Protection Center
COMM (508)-233-4496, DSN 256-4496



**NATICK
SOLDIER
CENTER**

Kansas St.
Natick, MA
01760
nsc.natick.army.mil